

# PROJECT UPDATE

## KEY FINDINGS FROM DRAFT REPORT

MBTA has conducted this analysis of particular aspects of capacity issues on the CSX owned line to Worcester in order to develop a mutually acceptable means of enhancing both commuter



and freight services in the region. MBTA also explored the issues surrounding development of a commuter rail station and service at Framingham State College.

### Overall Study

The report looks at constructing a "Third Track" in two segments, one from CSX's Nevin's yard in Framingham west to near Main Street in Ashland and a second segment from Worcester yard near Putnam Street approximately 4.5 miles east to a controlled interlocking near the Millbury-Grafton line. The Draft recommendation is that the Ashland-Framingham and Worcester-Millbury-Grafton project segments be advanced as separate and independent projects in a two-pronged approach, given the complexity of the issues in the Worcester-Millbury-Grafton segment.

### Potential Next Steps in the Project

The Commonwealth and CSX are continuing to work together to develop a plan to improve the movement of passengers and freight within the region and along this corridor in particular. Once these negotiations are complete, the framework will be set for the identification of specific improvements which will be necessary to increase commuter rail service.

It is also recommended that the MBTA coordinate with CSX to investigate shortening of the Worcester segment and reevaluate the amount of improvements necessary to add commuter and freight service in view of the changing operations.

### Framingham State College

The study outlines the issues, order of magnitude costs and suggested approaches should the proposed development of a combined commuter rail station/parking facility at one of two locations in proximity to the existing rail line and Framingham State College campus be further considered.



### Upcoming Meetings

The MBTA has scheduled two public meetings to discuss the draft findings of the report studying the enhancement of commuter rail service to Worcester and the feasibility of a new parking facility at Framingham State College. Both meetings will follow the same agenda.

On Monday, **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** the Framingham Downtown Railroad Crossing Task Force will host a meeting at the Framingham Town Hall, Public Hearing Room, (150 Concord Street, Framingham) at 7:00 p.m. Directions to Town Hall can be found here: <http://www.framinghamma.org/web/pages/Directions.htm>

On Wednesday, **May 24<sup>th</sup>** the City of Worcester will host at City Hall (455 Main Street Worcester) in the Council Chambers, at 6:30 p.m. Directions to City Hall can be found here: <http://www.ci.worcester.ma.us/cco/directions.htm>

Copies of the executive summary will be available at the meetings for review.

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